Expedited Academic Review FAQs

What was the process that was used to identify programs/departments for expedited review?

Departments and programs were selected based on the most recent results of the Delaware Cost Study, which looks at a number of factors including instructional cost per student. We chose to review the half of UAF departments that had higher instructional costs, and not to preemptively add or remove programs from that list. Because the Delaware Study includes only four-year programs, high-cost and low-enrollment programs were also identified from CTC and CRCD. Previously suspended programs will also be reviewed.

Will you be using the Delaware Cost Study information during the reviews?

No, we will not. It was simply used as a means for generating a list of programs to be reviewed. The office of Planning, Analysis, and Institutional Research (PAIR) is producing updated data for all of the programs under review. These data will cover majors and graduates over the last five years, and current program costs/expenditures. The departments will also contribute information about their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for consideration.

Will the data used for expedited review be available for the public to see?

The data will be made public once it is available.

What is the objective for the expedited program reviews?

We need to address our fiscal challenges and consider where savings and efficiencies may be appropriate in academic areas. These savings could be achieved through restructures, reductions, or eliminations in some areas.

What happens to programs that were already scheduled for regular review?

Any program that was scheduled for expedited review was removed from the regular review list for this year.

How was the timeline determined?

In order to complete the process during this academic year, we built the timeline so that any recommendations can go to the Board of Regents in April.

As a student, what does it mean for me if my program is under expedited review?

UAF chose to review approximately half of our programs and departments, and UAA will be reviewing all of their programs. The process allows us to broadly consider academic efficiencies
and cost savings and selection for this process does not mean that a program is under threat. There are many potential outcomes ranging from continuation without change, to structural revisions, to limited program eliminations. In all cases, students enrolled in programs will be supported to complete their degrees.

What is the difference between UA Statewide expedited reviews and the UAF expedited reviews?

The Board of Regents voted to suspend the statewide academic reviews that were underway, but in the same meeting they instructed the Chancellors to proceed with expedited reviews at each of the three universities.

What is the SWOT analysis that programs and departments are asked to provide?

A SWOT analysis looks at strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. We are not providing a strict framework for the structure of the SWOT analysis, so that programs and departments are able to present their information in the manner that they think is best. We do ask that the report be no longer than four pages.

What if a member of the review committee has a conflict of interest, such as their own program being up for review?

Committee members will be able to participate in the group’s discussion, but will be required to abstain from voting on recommendations for any programs for which they have a conflict of interest.

Will departments be able to participate in meetings of the committee reviewing their program?

Departments will be invited to send up to two faculty representatives and one student representative to attend the committee’s discussion of their department or program. Representatives are there to observe, and to answer clarifying questions if the committee asks them, not to advocate or present their data.

What do the different categories that the committee can recommend mean? What is the difference between a revision or a reduction?

Definitions for all six options for committee recommendations (continuation, continuation with improvement plan, revision/restructure, reduction, suspension or deletion) are posted under Other resources on this page, through the link titled “Potential committee recommendations defined.” These same definitions have been provided to the committee members.